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June 24, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott,

As the President of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), an independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing academic freedom, excellence, and accountability in higher education, I am writing to express my thanks for your work on H.R. 5505, the *Equal Campus Access Act*.

Intellectual and ideological diversity are central pillars of any academic community. Unfortunately, a deeply concerning trend has emerged at many colleges and universities across the nation. Under the guise of fostering abstract notions such as “belonging,” campus administrators have sought to institute broad policies that have increasingly deregistered, defunded, and marginalized religious student organizations. These bureaucratic mandates often place ideological restrictions above students’ sincerely held religious beliefs and frequently dictate that faith-based groups must allow any student to hold a leadership position, regardless of whether that student shares the group’s core religious tenets or adheres to its standards of conduct.

Forcing a religious organization to accept leaders who fundamentally disagree with its creed does not promote true inclusion. Nor does applying additional scrutiny to religious groups seeking institutional recognition. These prejudicial policies silence students’ unique voices in favor of allowing administrators to enforce a rigid, homogeneous campus culture of their own choosing. This bureaucratic hostility not only threatens students’ First Amendment rights but dramatically impoverishes the vibrant marketplace of ideas that higher education is meant to foster.

PROMOTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND EXCELLENCE

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Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott

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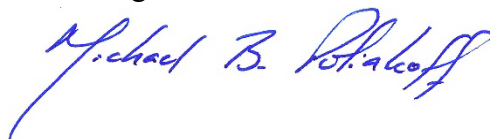
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The educational mission of a college or university demands that leadership respect students' right to form and govern groups built around shared, deeply held convictions. The *Equal Campus Access Act* provides a necessary and urgent statutory remedy to this crisis. By guaranteeing that public institutions receiving federal funds cannot deny religious student groups the rights, privileges, and access afforded to their secular counterparts, the bill ensures that these organizations can retain their right to require that their leaders and members adhere to the group's sincerely held religious beliefs and practices without forfeiting official campus recognition or access to student fee allocations.

At ACTA, we firmly believe that academic freedom extends beyond the classroom and into the campus square. Students must be free to exercise their faith and associate freely without fear of being treated as second-class citizens by university administrators. H.R. 5505 establishes a clear, fair standard that protects these essential liberties and ensures that public universities remain welcoming environments for all viewpoints.

We applaud the introduction of this vital legislation and respectfully urge the Committee to support and swiftly advance H.R. 5505. Guaranteeing equal access for religious student organizations is a critical step toward restoring free expression and true viewpoint diversity in American higher education.

Warm regards,



Michael Poliakov  
President